VALLEY FREE PRESS

THE LEHIGH VALLEY'S
GAY & LESBIAN OPINION / NEWSPAPER

VOL. 3 NO. 4 MAY-JUNE 2000

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LEHIGH VALLEY PRIDE FESTIVAL AND PARADE - JUNE 17

NATIONALLY KNOWN GROUP "BETTY" TO HEADLINE FESTIVAL

The roster of stage entertainment also includes: MC: Joe McClain, DJ: Curve, Performers: "Bigger Than Boise" a guitar duo playing jazz, rock, blues and folk, "Robin Renee," vocalist / guitarist / songwriter, "Trap Door," a funky 12 member band, and "Friends of Dorothy," a new local group. For the most up to the minute news of the LV Pride Festival check the web site at :<www.pridelv.org>.

ELLEN WOWS THE CROWD

Photo by Steve Libby

Ellen Degeneres began her national tour at the State Theatre in Easton on May 3, to a screaming standing ovation from the overflowing full house. Her hilarious new stand-up routine included lines like: I just read that human beings only use 10% of our brains...gee, can you imagine what we could do if we used the other 60%?

After her routine, Ellen sat on a stool and answered questions from the audience. She answered, "Where's Anne?" by calling Anne Heche up onto the stage to another round of thunderous applause. It was a night to remember.

Valley Free Press does not discriminate on the basises listed in the anti-discrimination statement on page 8 , and asks that organizations which request VFP to publish information about their events maintain a similar policy.

MORE THAN 25 MAJOR LOCAL PRIDE EVENTS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE - INCLUDING:

Cambiata Early Renaissance Concert sponsored by Touchstone Theatre -Saturday, June 3

" Love Makes a Family" Photo Exhibit - June 9-18 Bethlehem Library - UUCLV

6 DAY - 16 MOVIE PRIDE FILM FESTIVAL at Colleges and Theatre Outlet June 5-9 and 14

LV Gay Men's Chorus Spring Concert at NCC - June 10

Enigma Players Present " Just Who Does She Think She is" with Opening act, " Bigger Than Boise," and Pre-Play Dinner at Starfish Brassiere on June 12

PA-GALA Game Show Night at Stonewall - June 13

F.A.C.T.'s Summer Solstice Dinner June 25

FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF ALL THE PRIDE MONTH EVENTS (SO FAR) AND MORE INFORMATION ON THE EVENTS LISTED ABOVE, SEE PAGES 3, 4 AND 5.

STATE HATE CRIMES BILL PASSES VOTE IN COMMITTEE HEADS TO SENATE

On May 2, The State Senate Judiciary Committee approved legislation to add "actual or preceived sexual orientation" to Pennsylvania's Hate Crimes Law. PA-GALA Political Director Steve Black, and attorneys from the Center for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights went to Harrisburg and successfully lobbied the members of the committee to vote yes.The Bill passed in committee 11 to 3. It now goes to the Senate for a vote.

PA-GALA has been laying the ground work for passge of a State Hate Crimes Bill for years. This Bill must pass, we can not expect passage of a Civil Rights Bill unless we can achieve passage of a Hate Crimes Bill. Its passage will be the first successful pro-gay legislation in Pennsylvania. Don't sit idly by and wait for the results of the Senate vote. Call or write your State Senator and ask them to vote yes.

Senator Joseph Conti (Bucks) is the Prime Sponsor and Senators Lisa Boscola (Northampton County and part of Monroe) and Charlie Dent (Lehigh County) are co-sponsors of this Bill. Call or write to thank them for their support. Senators David Brightbill (Northwest Lehigh County and Berks), James Gerlach (Emmaus - Mucungie Area), and James Rhodes (Schuylkill and Carbon Counties) are not yet co-sponsors. Call and ask them to vote yes on the Hate Crimes Bill - SB 553. If you are not sure who your State Senator is, call Steve Black at 610-863-9858.

If this legislation passes the Senate, we must then work on passage in the State House.

LATIN ALLIANCE, 19TH ST. & CIVIC THEATERS SIGN ON

The list of Lehigh Valley Organizations that have signed onto the Statement of Anti-Discrimination has grown to 31 with the addition of the above groups. Allentown Chief of Police, Carl Held, has also signed on to the statement as an individual. While signing the statement, Chief Held said, "I can't see any problem with this." To read the statement and the current list of supporters, see page 8.

PLANET Parenthood

edited by Emily Dugan

Judy Shepard and a "Journey to a Hate Free Millennium"
by Trish Sullivan

On April 6, Brent Scarpo presented and discussed his documentary "Journey to a Hate Free Millennium" at Muhlenberg College. The film focuses on the hate-related murders of Matthew Shepard and James Byrd and the shootings at Columbine High School. It features interviews with family and friends of many of the victims, who relate graphic and detailed accounts of these hate-crimes. It is not an easy film to watch. The stories and feelings expressed by these people are exceptionally moving. Mr. Scarpo uses the film and guided discussion as tools to help the audience realize that their actions are choices and that they can manage fear without resorting to violence.

Judy Shepard, Matthew Shepard's mother, attended the Muhlenberg event and after the film, spoke with the audience. I and others were quite moved by this compelling documentary. The person sitting next to me was so moved, she burst into tears as she shared a thought during the discussion.

I marveled at Judy Shepard's gracious demeanor and wondered how she was able to sit through the film and how she coped the numerous times she has had to relive the bitter memories of losing her son. Every event she attends brings her expressions of sympathy and condolence from the audience about Matthew's tragic death. Her loss has made her a celebrity of sorts in our community. But Judy Shepard's "celebrity" comes from her commitment to make a difference, not from her sorrow. She reminds us that hate crime starts with hate language and that our silence about the use of hate language is implicit permission for someone to take the next step. She is a person of action and stressed that we as individuals must recognize hate language when we hear it. And we must be responsible to challenge hate language, not only when it is an expression about sexual orientation, but when it is about gender, race, ethnicity or any other bias that could lead to hate motivated behavior. .

She speaks of her testimony on hate crime before Congress. She relates that our representatives in Congress know very little about sexual orientation and gender identity and most really don't care. Though many people can empathize with her loss as a parent, few have any understanding about sexual orientation and gender identity and the prejudices that lead to hate crimes. She has learned that celebrities and even victims who testify to Congress have very little impact on what Congressional Committees actually do. What really matters is whether the voters in the Politician's home district care about the issue.

After the presentation I had the opportunity to talk more in depth with Judy Shepard. She is a very gracious and kind person. She is committed to ensuring that no other mother has to endure the pain and loss she has experienced. When I shared with her the work PA-GALA is doing on hate crimes legislation her face lit up with enthusiasm. She was pleased with our efforts to register and encourge people to vote and to lobby on issues like hate crime and civil rights. We all know that Judy Shepard has suffered a profound loss, but hearing her speak, even briefly, one realises her message is about grassroots action.

To have The Valley Free Press mailed directly to your home, become a member of PA-GALA.

RAGS TO RICHES TAKE THE FIRST STEP

by Denise McKelvey

Dear Denise,

I am considering gifting a stock that I have in my portfolio. Are there any tax savings for gifting stocks? **From Aspiring Bequester**

Dear Bequester,

It may depend on which taxes you are trying to avoid, income taxes or estate taxes. Are you gifting the asset to an heir or a non-profit organization? If an heir is to receive the stock, the cost basis will be the value of the stock on the date of death. In that case, you may be better off not gifting the investment and accepting the step-up of the cost basis.

Now let's discuss the non-profit organization. Transferring the stock is possible, however you need to understand your options. Some larger institutions have departments available to simplify the process. There are always options, but primarily you will need to create a trust through an attorney. I would suggest that you choose an attorney who is familiar with trusts and specializes in this area. You will need to change the ownership of the stock from your name to the non-profit organization via a trust. You may want to draw an income from the trust, while you are living. For example, you gift $50,000 to the charity. Assuming that you then transfer the stock to a bond mutual fund, the investment may generate 9% per year. You are able to receive a tax-free income of approximately $1,125 from the account on a quarterly basis for as long as you live, because of income that it is earning. The charity receives a lump sum distribution of $50,000 at your death. You will enjoy the opportunity to be recognized for the gift while you are living and you have provided your charity with appropriate funds to conduct their work. This would be referred to as an Irrevocable Trust. This means that you are relinquishing your rights to possession of the $50,000 forever. If the cost basis of the original stock were $20,000, you would avoid a capital gains tax on $30,000 as well as the income tax in respect to the receiving decedent.

On the negative side, a trust can be complex. An attorney must draw up the trust, which may cost $1,000 or more, depending on the complexity. Secondly, there will be an annual fee to maintain the trust. Tax returns will need to be filed annually, in order to meet the IRS regulations and to insure the status of the gift. The fee to keep the trust compliant with the IRS may fall into the range of $750 to $1,000 annually.

I appreciate your ongoing questions and I look forward to seeing you at upcoming Pride events.

PFLAG NEWS

The LV PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays of the Lehigh Valley), newsletter reminds everyone that PFLAG-LV plans to march in the Pride Parade in their nifty new PFLAG t-shirts. Anyone wishing to march with the group, or to order a t-shirt ($12.00) should call: 610-967-5219

LV PFLAG will have a special "Pride Parents" meeting as part of the LV Pride Week, on June 11 at 3:00 pm, at Northampton Community College, room 134 in the College Center.

The 3rd annual potluck LV PFLAG picnic will be on July 9, at Ilse and Allan's house. Mark your calendar.

GARAGE SALE BENEFITS ACC♀ AND PA-GALA

Once again the PA-GALA / ACCO Garage Sale Fundraiser was a success due to the help of dozens of people who donated items for sale. If you have stuff to donate, save it up for our next sale in October.

HOT NEWS

GLOSS EVENTS

GLOSS, the Gay and Lesbian Outdoor Sports Society, reports that their last indoor game night was May 20, after their annual picnic. In June, the summer sports schedule begins with racquetball - Tuesdays and Saturdays, volleyball - Tuesdays and Thursdays, and Tennis - Sundays. Check the GLOSS hotline at 610-434-2966, or the GLOSS website at <www.gloss.org/waterdir.html> for times, addresses, and directions. GLOSS also maintains a terrific events calendar and list at the sites: <www.gloss.org/calendar.html> and <www.gloss.org/eventlist.html>.

DIAMONZ FUND RAISERS

Don't miss the Diamonz Drag Show to benefit Pride on June 2, at 9 pm.

Diamonz hosts bingo every Sunday at 6:00 pm. The proceeds benefit AIDS Services Center. There's a progressive jackpot, the last jackpot was $848! Softball teams have started up, every Tuesday and Thursday.

On May 13, Diamonz hosted an Oldies Party from 7:30pm to 10:30pm, which featured music from the 70's, 80's and early 90's. Check Diamonz calendar for future fund raisers and "Oldies Nights," especially designed for those "Oldies" among us.

GMLV SCHEDULE

Gay Men of the Lehigh Valley meets the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of every month at 7 pm, usually in the community room of UUCLV. Future meetings include: May 27, game night. June 10, Gay Men's Chorus Concert. June 24, game night. A $1 donation is requested at each meeting (held at UUCLV). For more information, email <gaymenlv@hotmail.com>. GMLV is supported by MCCLV.

RAINBOW BOWLING LEAGUE FORMING

Efforts are being made to "formalize" the group of folks who had been meeting Tuesday nights at 8:30 pm at Mountainville Lanes for "free bowl," into a league. Teams will be made up of 3 people each with the goal of 6 to 8 teams. The Rainbow League will begin in the Fall. If you or your group is interested call Scott at 610-691-8303.

REAL ESTATE?

Don't forget that Remax Real Estate Agent Gail Hoover will graciously contribute $100 to PA-GALA when a client mentions this VFP article. So whether you're buying or selling. Call Gail at 610-791-4400. and mention PA-GALA and VFP.

GRAND OPENING OF NEW STORE

A nifty new store called "PRIDE / DIVA" will be opening next door to Diamonz in conjunction with a fashion show presentation, on June 4. There will be a tour of the store and complimentary buffet from 5 to 6 pm, then the fashion show at Diamonz from 6 to 8 pm. Then another tour of the store.

PRIDE / DIVA will feature popular GLBT "pride" merchandise, books, tapes, and a special section for "all the wonderful fashion accessories our glamour girls need."

The next issue of VFP will be given out at the Pride Festival on June 17 and mailed to PA-GALA members. It will feature a fabulous photo essay of the Millennium March by VFP photo journalist Steve Libby. Don't miss it!!!

GLORA

GLORA, the Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown, is a social organization which sponsors fun events for the community. Earlier this month GLORA organized a walk/hike at Blue Fish Marsh and also a mini-golf event. Get the GLORA newspaper, The Tassle, for up to date information by becoming a member. Write GLORA: PO BOX 1952, Allentown, PA 18105-1952, or <email GLORAinPA@aol.com>. to find out how to become a member.

WDIY SCHEDULES SHOWS FOR PRIDE MONTH

WDIY's Saturday night program "Assorted Women", with host Audrey Kopecky, is planning some special shows to celebrate Gay Pride month. On June 10, listen in at 88.1 FM (in Allentown and Bethlehem) or 93.9 FM (in Easton and Phillipsburg.) for the Lehigh Valley Pride Festival Special, featuring some of the performers scheduled to appear at the LV Pride Festival on June 17th, as well as the organizers, who will let you know what will be happening in the days leading up to the Fest. Listen in again on June 24 as "Assorted Women" will present "Pride and Power", a program produced by WHYY in Philadelphia, featuring the Millennium March and Philadelphia's Pride festival. WDIY also airs "This Way Out," on Sunday evenings, 7 to 7:30 p.m., a syndicated radio program of news for the queer community.

BARNES & NOBLE G&L BOOK CLUB

The Whitehall Barnes & Noble Gay and Lesbian Bookclub's next meeting is June 20. The discussion will be on May Sarton's, "The Education of Harriet Hatfield." The July 18 discussion will be on, "Happy Endings Are All Alike," by Sandra Scoppettore. Meetings begin at 7pm.

TOUCHSTONE THEATER SPONSORS CAMBIATA CONCERT TO BENEFIT PRIDE

Cambiata, Lehigh Valley's early Rennasaiance music group, will perform a concert at Touchstone Theatre, at 321 East 4th St. Bethlehem, on June 3, to benefit the Pride Festival. A special reception in the Theatre Cafe will be catered by Iacoca's.

The reception in the Cafe will be at 8 pm, performances begins at 8:30, there will be an intermission. For tickets ($17.50, or $20 at the door) contact Pride at 610-770-6200, or Cambiata at 610-868-2153, or Daniel at American Hairlines, or at 610-439-8369.

THE FILM WE'VE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR

Steve Libby's Lehigh Valley Documentary, "Through a Lavender Lens: Gay and Lesbian Life in the Lehigh Valley," will premier the last night of Pride College Movie Week, on Friday, June 9, at Northampton Community College, at 7:30 pm. Steve has been working on this important chronicle of the LV GLBT community for several years. Steve took over 80 hours of film, and edited it to this feature length movie that even has footage of the famed Allentown City Council meeting. If you have ever been to a Pride Festival, or other event, Steve may have caught you on film, (but did you end up on the cutting room floor?). Don't miss this one, everyone who's anyone will be there!

GLBT FAMILIES PHOTO EXHIBIT TO BE AT BETHLEHEM LIBRARY, UUCLV

The nationally acclaimed photo exhibit "Love Makes a Family," will be on 24 hour exhibit to the public in the windows of the Bethlehem Library from June 9-13 and at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley, at 424 Center St. Bethlehem from June 14-18. This special event is sponsored by Pride, Equal! at Lucent, and UUCLV. A closing reception for the "Love Makes a Family" photo exhibit will be held 3 pm Sunday, June 18 at UUCLV in Bethlehem.

CALENDAR

ACCO-A Chorus Celebrating Women, Rehearsals, Thursdays 7-10pm at UUCLV Bethlehem, 610.760.1759
AIDS Outreach-112 N. 5th St. Allentown, PA 610.435.8424
AIDSWALK- AIDSWALK Lehigh Valley - 610.974.8701 www.regiononline.com/lvaids
ASC- AIDS Service Center 610.974.8701
BMA- Bucks/Montgomery Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Concerns 215-529-0360
B&N- Barnes and Noble Gay &Lesbian Book Club, White Hall store, Monthly, 7:00pm.
Bowling- Monday Nights, Mountainville Lanes, 610-691-8303
Enigma Players 610-432-0706
EQUAL! at Lucent Technologies 610.712.5532
FACT- Fighting AIDS Continuously Together 610.820.5519
GMBG- Gay Men's Buddist Group- Meditation and discussion, 610-776-1768
GLEE at Air Products
GLASS- at Lehigh Univ. Every other Thursday 6pm , 2nd fl. Lamberton Hall , 610.758.3469
GLISN- at Dun & Bradstreet
GLORA- Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown (Social gatherings, various dates) Newsletter- The Tassle. Write to: P.O. Box 1952, Allentown PA18105-1952, email- GLORAinPA@AOL.COM
GLOSS - Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society, P.O.Box 21862 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002 Volleyball,. Tennis, Racquet Ball . 610.434.2966.
GMLV- Gay Men of the Lehigh Valley, 2nd and 4th Saturday Monthly 7pm UUCLV, Bethlehem, 610.820.0977.
Integrity- Lesbian and Gay Episcopalians Family and Friends 1st Monday each month 7pm Trinity Episcopal Church 2nd Floor Chapel, 44 E. Market Street Bethlehem. 610-758-8642
KS-Kindred Spirits- Support, discussion, and social group for lesbians and bisexual women Fridays at 6:30pm, Contact : Chris at 610-868-0248
LVGMC -Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus, Rehearsals Tuesdays, UUCLV Bethlehem. 610.366.3320, steveo@early.com
MS - Moravian Sanctuary, PO Box 5053, Bethlehem, PA 10815.
MCC - Metropolitian Community Church, office-424 Center St. (UUCLV), Bethlehem, 6 pm Sundays, 610.954.7775
NCC- Northampton Community College Gay Lesbian and Bisexual Student Union, Meetings every Monday fron 4pm to 6pm at CC114 (Cohen Lounge),, College Center call 610.861.5541(#1386) or 882-2531
NEPATA-NorthEast PA Transgender Assoc see Renaissance
NCFM- New Covenant Family Ministries, Sundays, 11am, Open Space Gallery, 610-791-0716 /740-3097, email NCFM98@aol.com
Out There- At Cedar Crest College
PA-GALA - PA Gay and Lesbian Alliance for Political Action, (Voter's Information Booklet, and Political Lobbying) 1st Tuesdays, Monthly P.O.Box 20825 Lehigh Valley 18002 610.432.5449
PFLAG - LV Parents Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, 2nd Sundays 3pm 610.967.5219
Philadelphia Gay and Lesbian Film Festival - In July ... 215.790.1510.
Pride - Pride of the Lehigh Valley, (Pride Festival) 610.770.6200, email: <lvpride@hotmail.com>, <www.pridelv.org>
RAA- Rainbow AA meetings, Mon. & Thurs., Episcopal Church 16th and Turner, Allentown.

JUNE 2000

PROUD TO BE PART OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY GAY AND LESBIAN COMMUNITY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 GLOSS RAA ACCO	2 KS DIAMONZ DRAG SHOW	3 GLOSS CAMBIATA @ TOUCHSTONE
4 STORE OPENING & FASHION SHOW	5 PRIDE - COLLEGE MOVIE WEEK FILM AT MUHLENBERG	6 FILM AT LEHIGH	7 FILM AT CEDAR CREST	8 FILM AT MORAVIAN	9 PHOTO-SHOW LV-GLBT FILM NCC	10 GAY MEN'S CHORUS CONCERT
11 PFLAG -PRIDE PARENTS MCC - PRIDE SERVICE	12 ENIGMA PLAYERS DINNER	13 PA-GALA GAME NIGHT AT STONEWALL	14 PRIDE FILM FEST NIGHT	15 REST UP FOR FESTIVAL	16 CANDIDA'S PARTY	17 PRIDE FESTIVAL AND PARADE
18 MCC PRIDE SERVICE PHOTO-SHOW	19 RAA	20 GLOSS LVGMC GLBT @ VYH Bowling B&N	21	22 ACCO GLOSS RAA	23 DIAMONZ KS	24 ENIGMA PLAYERS @ STONEWALL WDIY
25 FACT SUMMER SOLSTICE DINNER	26 RAA	27 GLOSS LVGMC GLBT @ VYH Bowling	28	29 ACCO RAA GLOSS	30 KS	GLOSS WDIY

PRIDE FILM FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

All Movie Nights begin at 7:30 pm and will have discussion sessions, College Movie Nights: June 5-9, suggested donation $2 , Pride Multi-feature Night, June 14, suggested donation: $5

Monday, June 5 @ Trumbower Center, Muhlenberg College
A Seeker Director: Kian H. Kuan (U.S-98) The filmmaker's investigation of his identity as both Chinese and gay Sleep Come Free Me D: Laurie Schmidt (U.S-98) A disenchanted office worker's dream life overlaps with reality Tomboy D: Donna Carter (U.S.-97) A girl's determination makes her a college basketball star and the publisher of the first womans sports page. HOME MOVIE D: Jan Oxenberg (U.S.-72) Jan Oxenberg's lesbian comedies have been unavailable for years - they seem even more striking and funny than in the '70's. Surviving Sabu D: Ian Igbal Rashid (U.K.-97) The story of a young gay Indian man and his father Out at Work D: Kelly Anderson & Tami Gold (U.S.-96) Award winning documentary on employment rights.
Tuesday June 6 @ Whitaker Lab Auditorium, Lehigh University
Hollow Reed D: Angela Pope (U.S-98) (From the Producers of The Crying Game. Thought provoking thriller about gay parenting and justice.
Wednesday June 7 @ Miller 33, Cedar Crest College
Stolen Moments D: Margaret Wescott (U.S.) Weaves together the lost threads of lesbian history to create a panoramic view of lesbian culture and life.
Thursday June 8 @ Dana Lecture Hall (Rm 204) Hall of Science, Moravian Coll.
Torch Song Trilogy D: Paul Bogart (U.S.- 88) (Harvey Fierstein, Matthew Broderick, Anne Bancroft, Karen Young) Fierstein's comedy / drama, with a story that draws you in and holds you forever.
Friday June 9 @ Northampton Community College (Room TBA)
Through a Lavender Lens: Gay and Lesbian Life in the Lehigh Valley D: Steve Libby (U.S.-2000) The world premiere of the film we've all been waiting for, because we're all in it! Black tie - optional.

Pride Multi-Feature Film Night - Wednesday June 14 @ Theatre Outlet,
Passing D: Sara Whiteley (U.S.- 91) A woman is transformed to a masculine, then feminine extreme.
Affirmations D: Marlon Riggs (U.S.-90) An exploration of Black gay male desires and dreams.
Pierre & Gilles, Love Stories D: Mike Aho (French-97) The intimate world of two contemporary artists. (Catherine Deneuve, Nina Hagen, Boy George, Rupert Everett)
Ballad of Reading Gaol D: Richard Kwietniowski (U.K.- 88) Modern-day twist on Oscar Wilde's famous defense of "the love that dare not speak its name", delivered by Quentin Crisp.
And the March Continues! D: Guadalupe Olvera San Miguel (Mexico - 97) A history of the lesbian movement in Mexico from its origins to the present.
Yellow Fever D: Raymond Yeung (U.K.- 98) This modern comedy with a dash of camp and a trace of glamour is an offbeat portrayal of gay Chinese subculture in a European-dominated society

Ren- Renaissance Transgendered Assoc., PO Box 3624 Allentown, PA 18016 610- 821- 2955 renlv @ ren.org
Rainbow Space - Muhlenberg College Organization 610.821.3244
Reading P-FLAG- 610.488.7533or 670.8029
Safe Space- At Lehigh U. 610.758.3469
Saint John's Lutheran Church- A welcoming, gay affirming church, 32 S. 5th st. Allentown 610.435.1587
Softball-(Women's) call Diamonz, 610.865.1028
SC- Susquehanna Camping Club- 503 General Sutter Ave. Lititz, PA 17543, www.paonline.com/outdoors
T.O. - Theatre Outlet- 29 Nth 9th St, Allentown, 610-820-9270.
TST- Touchstone Theatre, 321 E. 4th St. Beth. 610-867-1689, touchstone@nni.com
Triangle Interests- Lesbian Network and Credit Union 215.487.3736... 215.508.1616 email TIFCU@aol.com www.TRIANGLEINTERESTS.org
Unity- 26 N. 3rd St. Emmaus, 767-4417
UUCLV - Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley, 424 Center Street, Bethlehem, 18018 610.866.7652.
VFP - Valley Free Press 610.432.5449
WDIY - 88.1 fm 93.9 fm Saturday 7:30 pm Assorted Women, Sunday 6:30pm- This Way Out (sponsored by Equal at Lucent) 610.694.8100

STILL CAN'T FIND ANYTHING TO DO?? WELL VOLUNTEER TO HELP PRIDE OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY PUT ON THE PRIDE FESTIVAL. CALL THE PRIDE HOTLINE AT 610-770-6200 TO FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN PITCH IN.

THE INFORMATION IN THIS CALENDAR IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. WE WILL PUBLISH ARTICLES ABOUT NOT-FOR-PROFIT LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS WHICH ARE OF SERVICE OR INTEREST TO THE GAY AND LESBIAN COMMUNITY, FREE OF CHARGE. CONTACT VFP - 610-432-5449. OR EMAIL LIZTRISH@AOL.COM

PRIDE FESTIVAL UP DATES

PRIDE EVENTS

June 2, Drag Show (Pride Benefit), 9:00 pm, Diamonz, 1913 W. Broad St., Bethlehem
June 3, Cambiata Concert , 8:00 pm-- see article page 3
June 5-9, and 14, Pride Film Fest -see pg. 4
June 8, Reading PFLAG Meeting (Discussion on Pride), 3:00 pm
June 9-13, Love Makes A Family Photo Exhibit--see article page 3
June 10, Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus Concert, 8:00 pm--see page 5
June 10, WDIY Radio Show, see page 3
June 11, PFLAG, 3:00 pm, see page 2
June 11, Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley, Pride Service (Part 1) "Rainbow Stories of Strangers & Spirit "- Pentecost Sunday, 6:00 pm, 424 Center St., Bethlehem
June 11, Tea Dance (Pride Benefit), 6:00 pm Stonewall
June 12, Starfish Brassiere, Enigma Players, "Bigger than Boise" 8:00 pm, Pride Benefit at Theater Outlet. See article below.
June 13, PA-GALA Game Night, to benefit PA-GALA and Pride, 11 pm, Stonewall
June 14, Pride Multi-Feature Film Fest, 7:30, Theatre Outlet, 29 N. 9th St., Allentown
June 14-18, Love Makes A Family Photo Exhibit, UUCLV see article page 3
June 16, Pre-Pride Party, 7:00-9:00 pm, Candida's, Allentown -- Meet and speak to State Representative Jennifer Mann, Co-Sponsor of the PA Hate Crimes Bill--
June 17, 7th Annual LV PRIDE Parade and FESTIVAL, Parade begins at 10:30am, Festival noon - 6:00 pm, Cedar Beach Park,
June 17, Enigma Players & Post-Pride Party (Pride Benefit), 8:00 pm, Stonewall
June 17, Post-Pride Party (Pride Benefit), 9:00 pm, Diamonz
June 18, MCCLV, Pride Service (Part 2), Front Porches & Back Decks / Trinity Sunday, 6:00 pm
June 24, WDIY Radio Show, see page 3
June 25, FACT Summer Solstice Dinner

DINNER, MUSIC, AND A PLAY!

Don't miss the premier of "Just Who Does She Think She Is?" the latest play by the Enigma Players at Theatre Outlet, 29 N 9th St. in downtown Allentown, on Monday June 12 at 8 pm. This Pride fund raiser event will also feature the musical duo "Bigger Than Boise." Tickets $5, from Theater Outlet.

Before you go to the play, enjoy a fabulous dinner at the Starfish Brassiere, 51 W. Broad St., Bethlehem. A fixed price ($35 includes tax, gratuities, but not beverages) three course menu, featuring a choice of soup or salad, steak or grilled salmon and fresh fruit sorbet or cheesecake, will benefit Pride. Contact Pride for tickets.

GAY MEN'S CHORUS CONCERT

The Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus Concert that will feature the WORLD PREMIERE of "Alex Baldwin Doesn't Love Me," (book by Michael Thomas Ford with music by J. A. Kawarsky) is billed to be LVGMC's funniest and liveliest concert yet. And it's the first big event of Pride week. The performance will be at Lipkin Theatre, Northampton Community College, on June 10 at 8pm. Tickets are $18, $15, and $12 and can be reserved by calling 610-366-3320 or emailing <lvgmc@hotmail.com>.

PARADE

Be sure to be part of the Second Annual Lehigh Valley Pride Parade, just before the Pride Festival, on June 17. To register your Club, Organization, Float, Band or what have you to march, contact Pride at: 610-770-6200, or email <lvpride@hotmail.org>. The March will organize at 10 am. at 10th and Linden Streets in Allentown, the Parade begins at 10:30 am. and will march toward the park up Linden Street. If you can't march, then stand on the sidewalk and cheer.

BETTY

BETTY, a wild and theatrical five piece pop rock / alternative band, featured on MTV, Comedy Central, and appearing in major motion pictures including "The Out-of-Towners", "Life With Mikey", "It's Pat" and "The Incredibly True Adventures of Two Girls in Love," will headline the Lehigh Valley Pride Festival. Elizabeth Ziff (vocals,guitar), Alyson Palmer (vocals,bass) and Amy Ziff (vocals,cello) are the songwriters and arrangers, virtuoso guitarist Tony Salvatore and drummer Mino Gori complete the NYC-based band. For a complete history of the band log on to the official BETTY website at <www.helloBETTY.com>.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE TO ATTEND BENEFIT

There will be a number of exciting Pre and Post Pride Festival Fund Raiser party's in June (see events list). They include: A Pre-Pride Party Pride Benefit , 7-9 pm, Friday, June 16 at Candida's at 12th and Chew Streets which will be attended by PA State Hate Crimes Bill Co-Sponsor, State Representative Jennifer Mann, who will meet and greet constituents and speak about the Hate Crimes Bill.

LV PRIDE HAS PAID FOR THIS ISSUE TO BE MAILED TO ADDITIONAL RECIPIENTS.

Dear WTA?

I've heard that Steve Libby is no longer the facilitator of GLBT@VYH. What does this mean for the youth program?

Concerned

Dear Concerned,

Steve Libby, who organized and ran the GLBT youth program, was doing an "internship" at VYH as part of his Master's degree program in Social Work. Steve has graduated, and since his internship is over, he unfortunately has to leave the program. (Congratulations on your Master's Steve, and a great job at VYH!)

VFP editors have been told that GLBT@VYH is continuing to meet and is actively looking for a qualified openly gay facilitator to work with the group. If you are licensed to work with youth in an organization like VYH and are openly gay or lesbian why not contact VYH to help with this important program.

If there are any further changes in the GLBT Youth Program, we'll do our best to let you know.

LV-PLAG MEMBER ARRESTED AT METHODIST CONFERENCE

The United Methodist General Conference (GC) was held in Cleveland, May 2-12. One of the most visible and hotly debated issues involves the church's position on GLBT people. Jim Palmquist, a member of Asbury United Methodist Church and LV-PFLAG, was at GC with "Affirmation," the 'voice' of GLBT people in the denomination. He was also registered with Soul Force, the non-violent activist group that follows Gandhi and Martin Luther Kings' teachings to support GLBT people.

To bring attention to the issues, Jim was one of about 190 people arrested outside the Conference on May 10 for civil disobedience, which involved blocking traffic access to a parking garage, spending a day with Cleveland police and a fine. Jim spent part of his day in a cell with Arun Gandhi (grandson of Mahatma Gandhi), Bishop Sprague of the Northern Illinois Conference of the UMC, retired Rev. James Lawson (Martin Luther King's assistant, who brought non-violence to King's campaign and who was president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference for 13 years), ex-Rev. Jimmy Creech and Rev. Greg Dell, among others. Yolanda King, eldest daughter of Martin Luther King, was also arrested that day.

The next day, Jim was one of about 50 activists supported by 300 delegates, who entered the General Conference floor without permission. Their goal was to make GLBT people visible to the delegates and to give them a voice about church decisions that affect them. Two bishops and half of the activists were eventually arrested. Essentially the United Methodist Church did not change its opinions on this issue, based on the voting that day. But the "witness" these protesters gave was a powerful and prophetic one with ramifications that will roll into the future.

SUMMER CAMP FOR KIDS FROM GLBT FAMLIES

Mountain Meadow Summer Camp is especially for kids with GLBT parents or from other types of non-traditional families. The General Camp is for kids ages 9-12 and the Teen Camp is for ages 13-16. There is also a counselor in training program for older youth. This year's camp session, in Newfield, New Jersey, will be August 13-26.

For more information call 215-848-7566 or email <mountainmeadow@yahoo.com>. You can also check their website at <www.mountainmeadow.org>.

ANOTHER VIEW
BY WILLIAM FETTERMAN

A GOOD-BYE

A very dear friend of mine died on April 7. His name was Walter Kantosky. He was 70 years old. Last summer he had a recurrence of prostrate cancer, which the doctors felt could be treated with a month's worth of radiation therapy. At his check-up in early September, they found his cancer had spread to the stomach. Walter had his entire stomach removed in mid-September, and was supposed to heal and return home by the end of October. Instead, he suffered one complication after another. Except for a couple of weeks towards the end when he was allowed to go back to his apartment, Walter spent seven months in the hospital.

Walter and I met in New York City at a gay and lesbian conference in 1998. One morning in the hospitality room instead of having my coffee alone, I decided to socialize a bit more than usual. An older gentleman was sitting alone at another table. I thought, "Why not?" So I went over, sat down, and we introduced ourselves.

We broke the ice with chit-chat about the conference, and soon veered onto classical music. I was especially happy to see that Walter knew and appreciated some 20th century composers; he was surprised and pleased to know I enjoyed pop songs from the 1900s-1940s. After an hour, we went our separate ways, exchanging telephone numbers. I said I'd call him after I got back home to Allentown.

Walter was happy, although a bit surprised, that I actually did call him. And I continued to call him two or three times a week until he went into the hospital. We talked about our lives, our problems and concerns, as well as the joys and beauties of the day. Sometimes I went up to New York to visit. Walter would make me coffee in the kitchenette of his studio apartment, and we'd sit and chat about various things. Sometimes we'd try to stump each other with song identification. Then we'd typically go for lunch at a local restaurant. One Sunday we went to a cabaret performance of old Broadway Revue songs, which we both enjoyed. For me, the memory I hold is the joy of being with Walter that Sunday afternoon, because he was in his element, and he was shining with happiness.

On one visit he asked, rather timidly, if I'd like to look at some of his old photographs. Sure, I said. Walter got a box out of a cabinet, and showed me two sets. The first set was from the early 1950's, when he was in the army in Japan and Korea. You could see a very "out" gay man in those photos. And in the group shots, those uniforms couldn't hide his other gay army buddies' sense of campy fun.

The other set was from 1958 when Walter worked in the chorus of a summer theatre in Maine, doing Gilbert and Sullivan operettas. He would show me the photos, explaining that this one was him in costume for Ruddigore; this one for The Sorcerer; this one for The Mikado; and so on. The one that stuck with me was Walter in costume for The Gondoliers. I made Walter a tape of The Gondoliers to listen to on his Walkman just two weeks before he died.

Walter was a source of strength while he was healthy, and an inspiration when he was sick. He was very gay, and showed through his own life how to be true to one's self without fear or shame. And he was more than just a survivor. His "coming out" in the early 1950s was during a repressive time I can't even imagine. Walter's generation made it easier on my generation to come out. Most of all, Walter truly lived life. His joy in singing with various choruses, his work as a movie-extra, his many social activities, and the mutual love of his many friends are just some of his spiritual riches he so freely shared. And, however briefly, I was also blessed to be one of Walter's friends. Bye, Walter.

A VIEW FROM A DYKE
BY LIZ BRADBURY

CALL to action:

Melinda Kohn (PFLAG-LV board member) called to say she had just had a very positive conversation with the Religion Editor of the Morning Call regarding concerns with the syndicated column by Michael J. McManus. It's time we all called.

As many of you know, McManus writes a weekly column titled "Ethics and Religion," that he uses to express his extremely right-wing views. Of course, "columns" usually do contain the opinion of the columnist, but McManus intentionally skews facts to validate bigoted statements, and because his is the only regular Morning Call religion column, there is nothing to counter balance his prejudice.

This year, McManus has had at least four extremely anti-gay columns, three of them have been in the last few weeks. In January, he blamed the possibility of same-sex marriages (retroactively) for everything from the fragility of straight marriages, to children of divorce, to the probable increase of AIDS cases. Several people wrote letters to the editor about this column, among them, Ed Verba (of LV-Pride) and MCCLV Pastor Elizabeth Goudy.

In a column about the (evil?) Academy Awards, McManus vilified Best Actress winner Hillary Swank, for her "deceitful" (?)portral of Bandon Teena, by comdeming Swank's mention of "tolerence for diversity."

Most recently, McManus cheered the lack of acceptance of gays at the Methodist General Coference in Ohio. He actually wrote this column before the Conference. He didn't mention that the off-spring of Ghandi, and Martin Luther King demonstrated in support of gays.

His most inflammatory column dealt with the Boy Scouts of America and the Supreme Court (Steve Olofson, of GMCLV, wrote an excellent letter to the editor in responce to this column). McManus first explained that BSA lawyer George Davidson justifies BSA's discriminatory stand by citing their expressed, but not written policy, that homosexuality is not compatible with the Boy Scout Law. But then McManus, in his own opinion, writes: "unfortunately, (Davidson) did not explain why the Boy Scouts take this postion," McManus continues, "... an amicus brief filed the Family Research Council (says) 'A nationwide investigation of child molestation in the Boy Scouts from 1971 to 1991 revealed that more than 2,000 boys reported molestation by adult (Boy) Scout Leaders.' " Then McManus adds in his own words, "Recent studies reveal that child molesters average 30-60 child victums before being caught, and pedofiles will abuse an average of 380 children in their lifetime."

Clearly, McManus infers that all gay men should be presumed to be pedofiles. But these statisics, actually indicate the opposite. In reality, most, if not all of these child molesters are self identified as straight. These statistics are so questionable and so unrelated to this issue that the Boy Scouts don't even use them. If McManus had insulted any other minority group in this way, he would have been dropped by the Morning Call in an instant.

McManus didn't mention the recent affirmation of same-sex couples by Reform Rabbis. Reform Judisum represents the largest Jewish denomination in the US. Yet McManus continues to insist that all Judeo-Christian religions condem gays and lesbians.

When a newspaper prints that a minority group should be denied rights because they are child molesters, some people will believe it , even if most people know it is not true. This guy is supposed to be writing about ethics, instead he spouts hate language, and hate language is the parent of hate crime. Either the Morning Call should add a Religion columnist who is proportionally liberal (if there is one that far to the left) to balanace McManus, or get a new Religion columnist who is more moderate.

The Morning Call constantly evalutes their columnists. If we all call them and explain why we think it's time for a change, they may listen.

TRAVELS WITH TRAVIS
By Travis Simmons

ASKING AND TELLING

Private Calvin Glover frequently made false boasts about his "delinquent" childhood when he was drunk, he was also well known to be homophobic. Private First Class Barry Winchell told him he was "full of it." Winchell was presumed to be gay. Glover wanted to fight Winchell but Winchell declined. When Glover finally succeeded in getting Winchell to fight ,Winchell hit Glover several times, then tossed him to the ground. Later Glover took his bruised ego and Justin Fishers' wooden baseball bat to where Winchell slept and beat Winchell's head in.

Medics described the scene; "the walls, the cot , were all covered in blood. Winchell's head was shattered like a busted egg shell."

Who is to blame? Was it Major General Clark, whose encouragement of anti-gay harassment and lack of supervision and leadership allowed excessive drinking and the conditions which lead to Winchell's murder? Was it Private Justin Fisher (a closet gay) who was Winchell's roommate , and who was also the one to hand Glover the bat, and encourage Glover to hit Winchell? Was it the entire base, where soldiers were heard to chant after the murder, "Faggot faggot down the street, shoot him, shoot him 'till he retreats," and say, "Hey it's just one less faggot to deal with, they really don't belong here anyway?"

Is this bothering you, well it should. I'm 18, so I get lots of calls from recruitment offices. Barry Winchell's story, (and VFP editors) encouraged me to do some research.

I talked to two Army recruiters, and two Navy recruiters, and this is what I found out. One Army recruiter told me all sorts of great things about the Army, until I told him I was gay, then he told me I could not join due to that fact, and basically hung up on me. So I called again later, and I talked to another recruiter. When I told him I was gay, he said, I could join, as long as I didn't tell anyone. "Well what if I do tell someone?" I asked. "You could be discharged," he said , then added quickly, " but it would be an honorable discharge!" (As if that made it OK!)

So then I called the Navy. When I told the first recruiter I was gay, he said "There is the don't ask don't tell policy, We don't ask you, you don't tell us." Then he told me where to go to enroll.

The next Navy recruiter I talked to was trying to get me to join, then I said, "I'm gay, does that pose a problem?" "Yes it does, I'm sorry son, it seems that you are not qualified, you can't join." Then he hung up.

More significantly, I asked each recruiter if they had heard about Barry Winchell. None of them had, or at least they said they hadn't. When I explained what had happened to him, how he was murdered, only one recruiter responded. He said, "That was very unfortunate what happened to him. It should have never happened."

Yes, it should not have happened, but it did, and the way the military is right now, it will happen again. If you or someone you know is thinking of joining up, I hope reading this article has helped you see the dangers being in the military poses to the gay community.

It's up to you whether you join or not, and if you do, I hope you make it. Just remember, they say they won't ask, they say you must not tell. Nobody asked Barry Winchell, and he didn't tell, but he was still beaten to death for being gay.

UUCLV WELCOMING CONGREGATION

The congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley will vote in June on the proposal to make UUCLV a "Welcoming Congregation." A welcoming Congregation, is one that fully accepts the GLBT population into the Church. UUCLV has been working on the Welcoming Congregation process for more than a year, with a variety of positive discussion, programs surveys and presentations. Every local GLBT organization listed in this paper, has reason to be grateful for the generosity, kindness, and spirit of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley. It is exciting, and fitting that the vote will happen during Pride month.

POP QUIZ

1. Who said, at the Millennium March, "I gotta say, I was straight for 27 years and I never came to a party as big as this."?
A. Betty DeGeneres B. Chastity Bono
C. Amy Carter D. Anne Heche

2. What famous pacifist's grandson was arrested for pro-gay demonstrating at the United Methodist General Conference?
A. Bishop Desmond Tutu B. Martin L. King
C. Mohandas Gandhi D. Jawaharlal Nehru

3. Who surprised the audience by playing the drums at the Equity Rocks Concert?
A. Barney Frank B.Tipper Gore
C. Tammy Baldwin D. Bill Clinton

4.* John Howell park in ___, is the only US public park named for an openly gay man.
A. Atlanta B. L.A. C. Chicago D. Seattle

5. The longest serving (28 years) openly gay State Senator of____, Allan Spear, has just announced his retirement.
A. Maine B. Wisc. C. Calif. D. Minn.

6.* "Agro-botonist" and teacher ____, was openly gay and lived with his partner Dr. Austin Curtis Jr., Pres. of Tuskegee Univ.
A. George W. Carver B. David Rodale
C. Alan Turing D. Dr. A. Bronner

7.* Scientist and inventor Nicola Tesla was a gay man. He discovered the principle of:
A. AC electricity B. DNA C. gravity D. RNA

8.* Which of these songs were written by a gay man to his gay lover?
A.The Sweetheart of Sigma Chi
B. Oh Danny Boy
C. I Left My Heart in San Francisco
D. God Bless the Child

9.Dr Evelyn ____was first to publish data showing that gay men are as well adjusted as straight men.
A.Hooker B. Mead C. Levay D. Ruth

10. The Mattachine Society was one of the first U.S. gay organizations. "Mattachine" refers to:
A. 13th cen. Jesters B. Native Am. Shaman
C. Renaissance Minstrels D. Ming Dynasty Monks

*According to the book "Out in All Directions."

1.D 2.C 3.B 4.A 5.D 6.A 7.A 8.ABC 9.A 10.A

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PA-GALA

Valley Free Press

Allentown Human Relations Commission

GLASS at Lehigh University

Safe-Space at Lehigh University

PFLAG of Lehigh Valley

ACCO - A Chorus Celebrating Women

GLORA

Pride of the LV

LV Gay Men's Chorus

GLB Student Union at NCC

The Lehigh Valley Labor Party

EQUAL! at Lucent

Metropolitan Community Church LV

OutThere-Cedar Crest

6th Street Shelter Allentown

LV Community Action Committee

GLEE at Air Products

FACT (Fighting AIDS Continuously Together)

SAGE at Muhlenberg

The Unitarian Universalist Church LV

GLOSS

LEPOCO

GLISN of Dun & Bradstreet

AIDS Service Center

Theatre Outlet

Integrity-Bethlehem

The Lehigh Valley Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Civic Theater 19th Street Theater

The Latin Alliance

To add your organization to this list, call 610-432-5449 or email VFP (lizirish@aol.com).

QUOTE

"I think the bill that the Legislature crafted does more than simply meet the mandate of the court. I think it is a courageous and powerful statement about who we are in the state of Vermont. I believe what the Legislature has crafted speaks to the notion that the founding fathers of this state put in the Constitution in 1777*, that all people are created equal. I believe it speaks to the notion, with the common-benefits clause that the court cited, that all people are created equal and that no one group of Vermonters will get more benefits or fewer benefits than any other group of Vermonters."

Governor Howard Dean his statement after he signed the Vermont Civil Union bill into law.
*Vermont outlawed slavery in its original State Constitution in 1777.

ANOTHER QUOTE

"I hold Laura Schlesinger and people like her personally responsible for people committing hate crimes."

Ellen DeGeneres, after her show on May 3.

GREEN CAFE NEEDS YOUR HELP

The Green Cafe in South Bethlehem, the only vegetarian restaurant in the area, is in danger of closing.They are looking for employees, especially creative people with leadership skills, to join the collective who runs the restaurant.You don't need any previous restaurant experience. If you are interested, contact them. And for everyone else, visit the Green Cafe, 22 W. 4th St., for some great food SOON!

STOP LAURA SCHLESSINGER

If you just can't take her anymore, log onto the website designed especially for people who are offended by "Dr. Laura," at <www.stopdrlaura.com>. (info from LV PFLAG Newsletter...Thanks.)

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